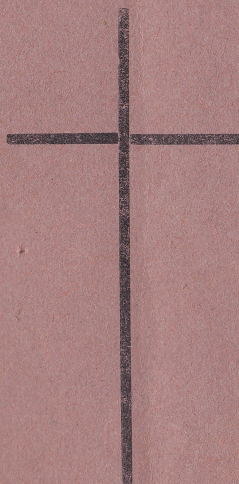


**ST. STEPHEN'S CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
MILNROW**

# ***The Messenger***



**NOVEMBER, 1972**

**PRICE 2p.**

**THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH  
LITTLEBOROUGH**



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T H E  
M E S S E N G E R

\*

We thought it fitting to ask the Revd. J. Keith Ramage to write our letter in this the first edition since becoming the United Reformed Church. He is, as you may know, the minister of Trinity United Reformed Church, Rochdale, (formerly Trinity Presbyterian.)

We were pleased to have Mr. Ramage with us at our Family Church Anniversary at Milnrow, taking both services, and look forward to many more visits from him since our churches are now more closely associated.

Have you ordered the  
new "REFORM" magazine?

32 page colour magazine.....  
.....1st issue November 1972

Replaces 'Congregational Monthly' (last issue  
October) and 'Enterprise'

If you have not already returned an order form to Mr. R. Gillon, you can place your order with him NOW.

\*

OCTOBER

1972



Dear Friends,

Already I am discovering what being part of the United Reformed Church means, for not only have I been asked to write this letter for you during your vacancy but I have also been asked to preach at several Church Anniveraries, but when one moves from membership of a church 50,000 strong to one of 250,000 this is only to be expected. But what other changes are we to expect?

Well, of course, the changes will be different for each one of us, though at a local level for the "man in the pew" the difference will be slight. Perhaps more so for us from the Presbyterian tradition who will now have to take the church meeting more seriously. And yet...my experience of congregational churches in the Yorkshire area is that whilst paying lip service to the church meeting it is still only the faithful few who bother to attend. A good resolution for us all in the United Reformed Church is to consider that we are starting completely afresh and really make the Councils of the Church work at all levels.

And what of the eldership? Here for you is a tradition from outside your experience and I find that many are put off by the name, perhaps it would have been better if we had always kept the name presbyter which is all that "elder" is a translation from, and really does not mean elder in respect of age but in service and wisdom and so not only should there be no fear of young "elders" but more are needed if the Church is to be able to meet the demands of this modern age. But perhaps the nagging worry at the back of your minds is this question of "ordination"? Now many learned theses have been written about this subject and I can only speak of my own personal belief that as it is God who calls a person to be an elder so the ordination is a recognition of this fact by the Church but it is through this act that the person so called receives

from God the particular grace and strength for the office. For me ordination is of the essence of the eldership and this is recognised in the U.R.C. by the fact that all new elders, i.e. those who have not previously been deacons in the Congregational Church, must be ordained. I personally hope that all previous deacons will exercise the choice they have under the constitution and become ordained, but this, of course, is for each individual to decide. However the great work of the elder is the pastoral oversight he exercises through his district and as J.M. Bates puts it in "A Manual of Doctrine": Happy is the congregation where the elders know all the people and go about among them to serve them with faithfulness and love in the name of Christ. The elder's greatest privilege is that of assisting the minister in feeding the flock."

Of course the new constitution, despite all protestations to the contrary, is a compromise and all of us would have it altered in some respect, but this is the constitution we have and now together we must make it work that together we may the better God in Christ in the area he has set us, and although I was one who was more unhappy than most about the constitution, I now look forward to the future with hope and expectation.

Finally may I end on a personal note, with a word of thanks for the most enjoyable fellowship I had with you at your Church Anniversary.

Yours in Christ,

J.K. Ramage.

(Minister: Trinity United Reformed Church,  
Rochdale.)



## BAPTISM

On October 8th three week old Kevin Lee was baptised at his home, 34 Drake Road, Littleborough, by Mr. J. Lord

## IN MEMORIAM

Mrs. Helena Travis, formerly of Hollingworth Road, died in Birch View on October 15th aged 77 years. Mr. J. Lord officiated at the funeral home and the crematorium on October 19th. Our sincere sympathy is offered to her relatives.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER

Mrs. Dorothy Mallinson was received into church membership at Littleborough on September 10th by Mrs. E. Gillon.

=====

## FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

|          |                                                           |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Nov. 5th | Hospitality steps across the nations<br>2 Kings 4: 8 - 13 |
| 12th     | Friends not servants<br>John 15: 1 - 15                   |
| 19th     | Where is justice<br>Luke 19: 11 - 26                      |
| 26th     | Vision of a new day<br>Isaiah 11: 1 - 9                   |

+++++

## ARE YOU OFFERING

The new envelopes for 1972-73 came into use on November 5th at St. Stephen's. This scheme is an ideal way of giving week by week throughout the year, and it helps the church to budget ahead. If you are not at present in the Free Will Offering Envelope Scheme, please consider joining NOW. Complete confidence is assured. Ask Mrs. N. Settle or Mr. F. Whitworth for further details.

## MILNROW NEWS

### WELCOME ABOARD

During Family Worship on Sunday Morning 12th November, the new Pilot Officers and Crew will be enrolled. Please give them your support by being present at this service.

### BREWERS WANTED

New helpers are required for the Family Church Coffee rota. Please contact the church secretary as soon as you can for the privilege of making and serving coffee in our ideally equipped kitchen. Help to wet the whistles of the worshippers.

### MICHAELMAS MARKET

Saturday -- 11th November 1972

Doors open 3.0 p.m.

Admission:            Adults.....5p  
                         Children...2½p

#### STALLS:

Crockery \* Cosmetics \* Bulbs \* Plants

Drapery \* Handicrafts \* Toys

Chocolate \* Home Foods \* Holiday Gifts

To say nothing of..(stay tuned)  
...the Raffle and the Grotto...

Teas will be served in the Welfare Centre:

TURKEY            37½p    Children 17½p

HAM            )  
TONGUE        )    32½p            "    15p

PLAIN TEA            17½p

## NO MEN! No QUESTIONS!

In view of other events, such as Bonfires, which are being held on Saturday, November 4th, it has been decided to cancel the concert by the ROCHDALE & DISTRICT MALE VOICE CHOIR.

Furthermore the "Any Questions Evening" scheduled for Tuesday, 7th November has been postponed so that the Women's Guild members can accept the invitation to attend the Ladies Rally at Hallfold. The speaker there, will be Mrs. Henderson, the wife of the vicar of Newhey, who is well known to most of us. A coach has been arranged which will leave St. Stephen's at 7.0 pm.

It is hoped to "make a date" with the Rochdale Male Voice Choir, and "Any Questions" will be dealt with later.

### FASHION SHOW & SECONDS SALE (Children & Adults)

Tuesday 21st November  
at 7.30 pm.

Admission.....10p.

## MEN'S '21 CLUB"

The men will be given a grand tour of Salford University on Tuesday the 14th November by Mr. Roy Howarth.

We shall leave St. Stephen's at 7.0 p.m. by car, so as to commence our visit by 7.30 p.m.

It is hoped that a supper will be provided for which there will be a charge.

All names to Mr. J. Emmott as soon as possible.

\*



WORLD MISSION ANNOUNCEMENTS - Milnrow

The World Mission Committee have arranged the following event:

" OLD MILNROW"

Mr. Sam Butterworth will be showing slides of Milnrow as it used to be.

Wednesday - 15th November  
at 7.30 p.m.

Admission 10p Including Light Refreshments  
Children 5p - Pay at the door.

\*\*\*\*\*

Missionary Boxes will be received on Sunday  
Morning 10th December.

\*\*\*\*\*

The new Missionary Secretary for St. Stephen's  
is Mrs. Audrey Baines.

=====

DOES THIS CONCERN YOU?

Please assist the editor (and the typist)  
by letting <sup>him</sup> have all material for the  
December issue by the 15th November  
i.e. not the Sunday following.

Please let the church secretary have  
dates of all events before he submits  
the diary to the editor.

THANK YOU!

\*\*\*\*\*

## GETTING TO KNOW .....(3)

### S O U T H I N D I A

SOUTH INDIA means people and cities and scenery and elephants and heat.

Millions of people working in textile mills and factories, in mines, in paddy fields, on tea plantations.....Coimbatore, the Manchester of South India, is a major industrial centre.

WHAT INDUSTRY? Cotton spinning (they grow their own cotton). Mining for magnesium and iron and bauxite. And gold. The Kolar gold mines 60 miles from Bangalore are said to be the deepest in the world. Then there are diamonds. Everyone's heard of the famous Koh-i-noor diamond. Found most likely outside Golconda

SCENERY? Well, you name it, South India's got it. Magnificent white sand beaches. Mountains and forests full of big game. Rivers and lagoons. Tea plantations, rice fields. Temples, of course, and palaces. And elephants; they catch them wild and train them to work in the forests. Oh yes, tigers too - and panthers - and jackals - and snakes.

HEAT - heavy, tropical heat. This is 'monsoon' country. Two each year: The big wet one that makes Kerala on the west coast so fertile and green and lovely. The smaller, drier one that comes down through Burma from Red China.

THE PEOPLE work hard, are not very rich, enjoy festivals, are religious. Most of them are Hindus. Many are Muslim. Some are Christian but not many. Nothing like as many as those who worship Allah or join in the Hindu rituals. South India is famous for its United Church - the Church of South India.

THIS CHURCH combines Anglicans and Free Churchmen (Congregational, Methodists, Presbyterians). It works in diocese and has bishops. It began in 1947 which makes it quite a veteran as United Churches go.

## AN ALCOHOLIC PRAYS

GIVE ME BACK MY FREEDOM GOD - MY FREEDOM TO DECIDE

Now that I am sober, dry,  
Give me freedom to decide, for myself,  
against that first drink.

I know that no drug, no advice, no therapy, can  
make the decision for me, that I have to do it alone..  
Give me that one free choice, to decide against it,  
or it will steal every other freedom,  
it will take life itself away.

Forgive me my bitterness when others do not  
understand.....

if my back was broken, they'd give me a pension;  
if I caught leprosy, they'd use plastic surgery;  
but an alcoholic gets disgust and repulsion for  
himself and his loved ones.....

Maybe they're afraid.....that this cursed disease  
is lying dormant in them, ready to devour them,  
imprisoning them, degrade them..... I don't blame  
them for being afraid.

\*

### FAMILY LIFE + A Prayer

We did not choose you, O God,  
You chose us.

Not to be different, better, special (though if a  
choice and not an accident, you must have acted  
with some hope) but just to be ourselves, unique.  
In your choosing lies your loving, before we were  
made.

You first loved us.

And we did not choose our families, God, their  
love came first; may we treasure this treasure  
in family life,  
to be loved first.

Amen

...Congregational Prayer Fellowship Handbook.



## LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

### AUTUMN FAIR

Daturday - November 18th at 3.0 p.m.

Opener: Councillor W.S. Edwards J.P.

Chairman: Mr. J. Lord

Soloist: Mrs. A. Baines

Pianist: Mrs. Wallbank

Admission: 5p

Please support the biggest effort of the year.

### Special Notices

1. The Pound Stall: Mrs. Joan Law will be very pleased to receive your gifts for this stall, and would appreciate any offers of home made cakes.
2. Men's Stall: Crockery may be ordered at Bells China Shop, Church Street, Littleborough. Hardware etc., from Messrs. J. Edison, Haro Hill Rd.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Women's Guild Jumble Sale was very successful and raised £25.

\*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. W. Spinks won the raffle, organised by Mrs. B. Holt, to raise money to buy materials for the redecoration of the schoolroom.

\*\*\*\*\*

### "KENYI COMES HOME"

The above was the title of a film shown as the first in the series of film evenings on Tuesday, October 17th. This thought provoking story of life in post-war Japan was appreciated by the audience of all ages.

The next film evening will be on the 8th November. Try not to miss it.

PANTOMIME at OLDHAM COLLISEUM

Monday 1st January 1973

"M O T H E R   G O O S E"

Parents, please make sure that you return the form with remittance as soon as possible.

ANOTHER OLD STORY

Councillor Austin Colligan made a return visit to the Women's Guild in October to speak with great interest about his antique book collection. Mrs. C. Hill thanked him on behalf of the members and Mrs. Cockcroft was the pianist. Mrs. Mellor and Mrs. Riley served tea and biscuits.

\*\*\*\*\*

WHAT IS A BIRTHDAY

by Hugh Morris

A BIRTHDAY IS JUST LIKE A BATH;

You gotta have one every year whether you need one or not.

A BIRTHDAY IS LIKE A SHOT OF VODKA;

You can't taste it or smell it, but you sure can feel it.

SOMETIMES BIRTHDAYS ARE LIKE FALSE TEETH;

No one will know you have them if you keep your mouth shut.

OTHER TIMES THEY ARE LIKE PILLS;

A lot easier to swallow if you have something to drink.

BIRTHDAYS ARE LIKE CALORIES;

We can enjoy them more if we don't keep score.

IF AT TIMES BIRTHDAYS SEEM TO BE JUST LIKE BILLS-  
adding up too fast,

DON'T FORGET BIRTHDAYS ARE ALSO LIKE LIFE PRESERVERS...

We'd be sunk without them.

# LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

Sun. 5th 10.30 am. Mr. J. Lord  
 Mon. 6th 7.45 pm. Junior Church Staff Meeting  
 Tues. 7th 7.30 pm. Women's Guild - Birthday Supper  
 Thur. 9th Pilots  
 Wed. 8th 7.30 pm. Film Evening  
 Sun. 12th 10.30 am. Counc. W.S. Edwards, Wardle.  
 6.00 pm. Miss M. Burgess (Communion)  
 Thur. 16th Pilots  
 Sat. 18th Autumn Fair  
 Sun. 19th 10.30 am. Mrs. E. Gillon  
 Thur. 23rd Pilots  
 8.00 pm. Mens Fellowship - Mr. K. Parry  
 (Civic Trust)  
 Sun. 26th 10.30 am. Mr. A. Roberts (Family Communion)  
 Mon. 27th 7.45 pm. Church Meeting  
 Thur. 30th Pilots  
December  
 Sun. 3rd 10.30 am. Mr. J. Lord

=====

## OFFERTORIES

|            | <u>Cash</u> | <u>Envelopes</u> |
|------------|-------------|------------------|
| Aug. 26th  | £ 1.28      | £9.25            |
| Sept. 10th | 2.74½       | 19.37½           |
| 17th       | 2.27        | 8.82             |
| 24th       | 10.38       | 23.62 (Harvest)  |
| Oct. 1st   | 2.05        | 9.82             |
| 8th        | 2.84        | 11.78            |
| 15th       | 1.82        | 7.75             |

# CHURCH DUTIES -- LITTLEBOROUGH

## DOOR STEWARDS

|          |               |                  |       |
|----------|---------------|------------------|-------|
| Nov. 5th | Mr. B. Hill   | Mrs. Hartley     |       |
| 12th     | Mr. H.N. Hill | Mr. F. Beattie   | 10.30 |
|          | Mr. E. Holt   | Mr. J. Nairn     | 6.00  |
| 19th     | Mr. J. Holt   | Mrs. E. Crossley |       |
| 26th     | Mr. J. Hill   | Mrs. E. Stott    |       |
| Dec. 3rd | Mr. W. Barker | Mr. F. Ingham    |       |

## DEACONS COMMUNION ROTA

|           |               |               |       |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|-------|
| Nov. 12th | Mr. J. Holt   | Mr. F. Ingham | 6.00  |
| 26th      | Mr. W. Barker | Mr. J. Lord   | 10.30 |

## COFFEE ROTA

|          |                     |                  |
|----------|---------------------|------------------|
| Nov. 5th | Mrs. J. Hobbs       | Mrs. K. Hill     |
| 12th     | Mrs. E. Booth       | Mrs. J. Simspon  |
| 19th     | Mrs. B. Leach       | Mrs. E. Crawford |
| 26th     | Mrs. L. Butterworth | Mrs. V. Crossley |
| Dec. 3rd | Mrs. B. Holt        | Mrs. J. Allison  |

## COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| Nov. 5th | Mrs. Walls       |
| 12th     | Mrs. Worthington |
| 19th     | Church           |
| 26th     | Mrs. Walls       |
| Dec. 3rd | Mrs. E. Holt     |

## FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Details on Page 4

|          |          |                |
|----------|----------|----------------|
| Readers: | Nov. 5th | Mrs. K. Hill   |
|          | 12th     | Martin Law     |
|          | 19th     | Mrs. Lightfoot |
|          | 26th     | Carl Mallinson |
|          | Dec. 3rd | Mrs. C. Hill   |

\*\*\*\*\*



# CHURCH DUTIES - ST. STEPHEN'S

## FAMILY WORSHIP DOOR STEWARDS

|          |                    |                     |
|----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Nov. 5th | Mr. H. Mellor      | Mrs. F. Butterworth |
| 12th     | Mr. D. Fursey      | Miss M. Wood        |
| 19th     | Counc. J. Harrison | Counc. I. Royle     |
| 26th     | Mr. J. Collins     | Mrs. A. Collins     |
| Dec. 3rd | Mrs. F. Whitworth  | Mrs. J. Duffy       |

## ELDERS ROTA

## EVENING DOOR STEWARDS

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| Nov. 5th | Mrs. M. Howarth  |
| 12th     | Mr. B. Clough    |
| 19th     | Mr. G. Whitworth |
| 26th     | Mr. K. Hey       |
| Dec. 3rd | Mrs. E. Gillon   |

## PIANIST/ORGANIST

## EVENING WORSHIP

|          |               |
|----------|---------------|
| Nov. 5th | Mr. D. Logan  |
| 12th     | Mr. J. Emmott |
| 19th     | Mrs. C. Hey   |
| 26th     | Mr. D. Logan  |
| Dec. 3rd | Mrs. C. Hey   |

VESTRY DUTY - Nov. 12th Mrs. N. Settle

## COMMUNION ROTA

|          |                  |                  |
|----------|------------------|------------------|
| Nov. 5th | Mr. J. Emmott    | Mr. J. Wild      |
| 26th     | Mr. R. Gillon    | Mr. K. Hey (am.) |
| Dec. 3rd | Mr. G. Whitworth | Mrs. M. Howarth  |

## FAMILY CHURCH COFFEE ROTA

|          |                   |                     |
|----------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Nov. 5th | Miss M. Wood      | Miss A. Clogg       |
| 12th     | Mrs. J. Duffy     | Mrs. F. Butterworth |
| 19th     | Mrs. A. Wood      | Mrs. Collins        |
| 26th     | Mrs. C. Hey       | Mrs. D. Hey         |
| Dec. 3rd | Mrs. H. Whitehead | Mrs. Greenhalgh     |

Persons unable to take their appointments as listed are expected to find a suitable substitute.

## OFFERTORIES

|        | Cash   |       | Envelopes | Total  |
|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|
|        | am.    | pm.   |           |        |
| August | £13.55 | £9.64 | £51.08    | £74.27 |

# ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY

## November

Thur. 2nd 7.30 pm. Junior Church Staff Meeting  
at 24 Ladyhouse Close.

Sun. 5th 11.00 am. Rev. R. Parker B.A., B.D.  
6.00 pm. " (Communion)

Mon. 6th 6.30 pm. Pilots (each Monday)

Tues. 7th 7.00 pm. Coach to Hallfold, Whitworth  
Ladies Rally.

Wed. 8th 7.30 pm. Elders Meeting

Sat. 11th 3.00 pm. Michaelmas Market

Sun. 12th 11.00 am. Mr. A. Roberts:  
(Pilots' Enrolment service)  
6.00 pm. Mr. W. Doswick

Tues. 14th 7.00 pm. Leave the church by cars, for  
Men's visit to Salford University

Wed. 15th 7.30 pm. "Old Milnrow" in pictures  
(See page 8)

Sun. 19th 11.00 am. Mr. J. Lord  
6.00 pm. Film Service

Tues. 21st 7.30 pm. Fashion Show & Seconds Sale  
(Children & Adults)

Sun. 26th 11.00 am. Mrs. E. Gillon (Family Communion)  
6.00 pm. Mr. D. Shepperd

Wed. 29th 8.00 pm. Church Meeting.

## December

Sun. 3rd 11.00 am. Mr. A. Roberts  
6.00 pm. Mr. W. Caffrey  
(Service of Word & Sacrament)  
+++++

## COMMUNION TABLE FLOWERS

|          |                   |                |
|----------|-------------------|----------------|
| Nov. 5th | Miss A. Memory    |                |
| 12th     | Mrs. Brocklehurst |                |
| 19th     | Mrs. M. Howarth   | Mrs. H. Mellor |
| 26th     | Counc. D. Nunn    | Mrs. D. Hanson |
| Dec. 3rd | Mrs. J. Calow     | Mrs. Clowes    |

ST. STEPHEN'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, MILNROW

and

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, LITTLEBOROUGH

\*

CHURCH SECRETARIES:

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Milnrow.  
Tel: ROCHDALE 42243

LITTLEBOROUGH

Mr. F.G. Simpson,  
121 Calderbrook Road,  
Littleborough.  
Tel: 061 834 4402  
(Business)

\*

MESSENGER EDITOR:

Counc. Ian Royle B.Sc. (Econ.),  
24 Ladyhouse Close,  
MILNROW.  
Tel: ROCHDALE 41916

\*

HOSPITAL VISITORS:

MILNROW:

Miss M. Wood  
Mrs. A. Wood  
Mrs. E. Starkie  
Miss A. Memory

\*

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